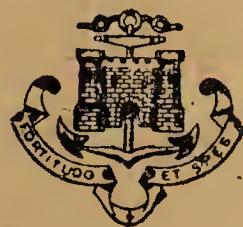


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STOCKTON-ON-TEES CORPORATION

REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE  
TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE  
YEAR 1942

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health ;  
Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital ;  
School Medical Officer.

COATES, HUNTER LTD., STOCKTON.



# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

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To the Town Council of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year, 1942, which shows in the customary abridged form how the health of the people of Stockton-on-Tees has reacted to the various stresses and strains imposed upon it by the war. The Report also represents the work carried out by the Health Department during my first full year of office, although it fell to my lot, also, to issue the reports for the years 1940 and 1941.

The vital statistics of the Borough for the year under review may be regarded as satisfactory and as contributing to the widely held opinion that the health of the people in the third and fourth years of the war has been maintained at a high level. The local birth rate for 1942 at 19.00 per 1,000 was considerably higher than the national figure of 15.8. The general death rate at 11.84 per 1,000 was lower than any rate since 1938 and compares favourably with that for the country as a whole. The infantile mortality rate of 65 per 1,000 live births showed a sharp decline from the rate of 75 per 1,000 in 1941, and may be regarded as a hopeful augury for the future, while the maternal mortality rate at 1.58 per 1,000 total births, represents the lowest rate ever recorded in the Borough, the corresponding rate for England and Wales, being 2.01. It is gratifying, also, to report that the incidence rate of pulmonary tuberculosis fell to a figure which compares favourably with the average rate for the decennial period of 1931 to 1940.

During 1942, the Health Services of the Borough came under review, resulting in a number of additions and alterations to existing services. Dental, Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat services were made available to nursing and expectant mothers and children under 5 years and Toddlers' Clinics were instituted to bridge the gap between the medical supervision afforded by the Infant Welfare Clinics on the one hand and the School Medical Service on the other.

Another development in the realm of child care was the setting up of two additional War Time Day Nurseries, each accommodating 60 children, thus making three nurseries in

all, while plans for a fourth nursery were submitted to the Ministry of Health. The Registered Minders Scheme was also fully implemented and 180 Registered Minders were enrolled. The supervision exercised by the Health Visitors in this respect has been of great benefit in counteracting, to some extent, the harmful effects arising from the disordered home circumstances resulting, in many cases, from the drafting of women into industry.

During the year also, a bacteriological laboratory was established at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, which has resulted, not only in a considerable saving of money, but in a greatly improved service. It is hoped, in years to come, to increase the scope of the work which is, at present, being done in this connection.

There was a considerable increase in the incidence of scabies during 1942 and the facilities at our disposal were used to their full capacity. Recognition was given to the fact that scabies tends to be a family and not an individual disease and whole families were, in a number of cases, admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. In addition, facilities were also provided at School Clinics and First Aid Posts and a great deal of home visitation was carried out by Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors.

In May, 1942, the Town Ambulance Service was taken over from the National Fire Service by the Health Department. This vital service has continued to function satisfactorily and I wish to record my appreciation of the service rendered by the personnel who are responsible for its operation.

*Diphtheria* immunisation was vigorously pursued in the Borough during the year. In addition to normal clinic facilities a Mobile Immunisation Unit was extensively used to bring about the immunisation of as many pre-school children as possible. The results of this were very encouraging and resulted in the immunisation of over 1,000 pre-school children who might not otherwise have presented themselves for treatment.

The Training School at the Isolation Hospital came into full operation during the year and the results, as measured by examination successes, may be considered to be a mark of encouragement for the future.

A full-time Assistant Medical Officer of Health was appointed during the year and some re-organisation also took place in the work that was previously carried out by part-time Medical Officers.

The war and in particular the vast schemes of post-war reconstruction have brought into relief the great scope of social medicine in general and of the preventive services in particular. We appear, indeed, to have reached the end of an epoch of Public Health and although no one will deny the great progress that has been made during the past century, we are also acutely aware of the great problems that will confront us in the post-war period. It will, however, also be a period of great opportunities and I have little doubt that the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, with its long history of social service will be prepared to play its part in the great developments which are foreshadowed. In particular, I would stress the importance of an enlightened public opinion in health matters as an essential condition to further progress. The value of health propaganda, particularly in the schools and among youth organisations, can hardly be overestimated and it is felt that there is here, a large field for future endeavour.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyal help and co-operation which I have received from the staff of the Health Department including the School Medical Service and also of those members of the Staff who have been engaged, full-time or part-time in the Civil Defence Casualty Service.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
11 Finkle Street,  
Stockton-on-Tees.

19th July, 1943.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

The civil population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year 1942 is 64,420.

### Live Births :—

|         |     |     | 1942       | 1941  |
|---------|-----|-----|------------|-------|
| Males   | ... | ... | 619        |       |
| Females | ... | ... | 605        |       |
|         |     |     | <hr/> 1224 |       |
|         |     |     | <hr/> Rate | 19.00 |
|         |     |     |            | 18.77 |

### Still-births :—

|        |     |     |    |                                     |
|--------|-----|-----|----|-------------------------------------|
| Number | ... | ... | 38 | Rate per 1000                       |
|        |     |     |    | total births <del>22.15</del> 37.52 |

### Deaths :—

|         |     |     |           |           |
|---------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Males   | ... | ... | 432       |           |
| Females | ... | ... | 331       |           |
|         |     |     | <hr/> 763 | Rate      |
|         |     |     |           | ... 11.84 |
|         |     |     |           | 13.96     |

### Infantile Mortality.

|                     |     |     |    |                   |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|-------------------|
| No. of deaths under |     |     |    |                   |
| one year            | ... | ... | 80 | Rate per 1000     |
|                     |     |     |    | live births 65 75 |

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

|               |     |     |   |                        |
|---------------|-----|-----|---|------------------------|
| No. of deaths | ... | ... | 2 | Rate per 1000          |
|               |     |     |   | total births 1.58 2.34 |

During 1942 the birth-rate was maintained at a high level, being slightly higher than the rate for 1941. At 19.00 per 1,000 of the population it was considerably higher than the rates for England and Wales and for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, the rates for which were 15.8 and 17.3 per 1,000 respectively.

The general death rate was considerably lower than the rate for 1941; in fact it was lower than any rate since 1938. The rate of 11.84 per 1,000 of the population compares very favourably with those for England and Wales and the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns which were 11.6 and 13.3 respectively.

The infantile mortality rate at 65 per 1,000 live births, although considerably above the record low rate for the Borough in 1936, namely 47, is an improvement on the rates for the past three years, particularly those for 1941 and 1940 when the rates were 75 and 77 respectively. The rate for England and Wales reached a new low level at 49, while for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns the rate was 59.

**Notes on Causes of Death.**—The principal causes of death during the year, with associated causes grouped together, compared with corresponding figures for 1941, are as follows:

|    |  |     | 1942 | 1941 |   |
|----|--|-----|------|------|---|
| 1. | Heart and Circulatory diseases                       | ... | 186  | 225  | ↓ |
| 2. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases | ... | 108  | 115  | ↗ |
| 3. | Cancer   | ... | 93   | 84   |   |
| 4. | Violence   | ... | 38   | 76   | ↓ |
| 5. | Diseases of nervous system                           | ... | 65   | 71   | ↓ |
| 6. | Tuberculosis (all forms)                             | ... | 44   | 68   | ↓ |
| 7. | Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.           | ... | 37   | 57   | ↓ |
|    |  |     | 571  | 696  |   |
|    | Percentage of total deaths                           | ... | 75   | 76   |   |

It is gratifying to find that after three years of war the deaths attributed to the seven principal groups of diseases showed a reduction except in the case of Cancer, on last year's figures. In the case of heart disease, violence, tuberculosis and congenital debility, etc., this reduction was very marked.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water.** The Borough is supplied with water by the Tees Valley Water Board. This supply has its source in upland gathering grounds near which it is impounded in extensive reservoirs. The supply is constant and abundant.

During the year four samples of this water were taken from taps in different parts of the area and sent for bacteriological examination and in all cases the water was reported to be satisfactory.

14 samples were also taken for bacteriological examination from barrels and tanks in which emergency water supplies for emergency meals and Civil Defence services are stored. Two of these were reported to be satisfactory, but the remainder contained coliform bacilli in very small numbers but the water cannot be considered entirely satisfactory.

**Rivers and Streams.** The crude sewage of the Borough is discharged into the River Tees without treatment.

**Closet Accommodation.** No house in the Borough within a reasonable distance of a sewer is now without a water closet.

**Slaughterhouses.** Only two of the 22 slaughterhouses in the Borough are now in use and are under the control of the Ministry of Food.

**Offensive Trades.** There was no alteration during the year in the number or nature of the offensive trades carried on in the Borough.

**Common Lodging Houses.** There is now only one common lodging house in the Borough providing accommodation for 33 men. This lodging house is well conducted and the accommodation provided is satisfactory.

## Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1942 :—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Investigations made in respect to notifiable disease ... | 851  |
| Visits and revisits made in respect to Scabies ...       | 1110 |
| Premises disinfected re infectious disease ...           | 460  |
| Premises disinfected re Scabies ...                      | 276  |
| "          "          " vermin ...                       | 158  |
| No. of re-visits where cases are isolated at home ...    | 3    |
| Inspections following complaints ...                     | 341  |
| ,,    under the Housing, etc., Acts ...                  | 11   |
| ,,    under Public Health Acts ...                       | 269  |
| ,,    of Offensive Trades ...                            | 88   |
| ,,    ,, Factories without mechanical power ...          | 98   |
| ,,    ,, Factories ...                                   | 16   |
| ,,    ,, Bakehouses ...                                  | 59   |
| ,,    ,, Cowsheds ...                                    | 64   |
| ,,    ,, Dairies and Milkshops ...                       | 160  |
| ,,    ,, Stables ...                                     | 16   |
| ,,    ,, Slaughter Houses ...                            | 1218 |
| ,,    ,, Markets and Shops ...                           | 704  |
| ,,    ,, Common Lodging Houses ...                       | 32   |
| ,,    ,, Ice Cream Shops ...                             | 2    |
| ,,    ,, Fried Fish Shops ...                            | 3    |
| ,,    in regard to outstanding Notices ...               | 1393 |
| Miscellaneous Inspections ...                            | 137  |
| Visits to Smallpox Contacts ...                          | 3    |
| Samples taken for Analysis ...                           | 85   |
| ,,    ,, Bacteriological Examination ...                 | 72   |
| Visits to Houses-Let-in-Lodgings ...                     | 45   |

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**Milk Supply.** At the end of the year 1942 there were 106 names on the Register of Dairymen; 84 of these are retailers and 22 producers, the majority of whom also retail their own milk.

**Bacteriological Examination of Milk.** 54 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. These samples were made up as follows :—

|  |    |
|--|----|
| From producers in the Borough ...      | 43 |
| From producers outside the Borough ... | 1  |
| Pasteurised ...                        | 10 |
|  | —  |
|  | 54 |
|  | —  |

The total bacterial counts of the samples taken from producers were as follows :—

|              |         |     |     |     |    |
|--------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Under 50,000 | per ml. | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| 50—100,000   | „ „     | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
| 100—200,000  | „ „     | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| 200—500,000  | „ „     | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Over 500,000 | „ „     | ... | ... | ... | 6  |

Bacillus Coli was found in 14 of the samples.

These results show a higher standard of cleanliness than was noted during 1941, at least 50% of the samples showing cleanliness of a high standard.

The results of the examination of the samples of pasteurised milk were, with two exceptions, well within the standard laid down for this grade of milk.

Many complaints were received during the year from schools and private persons, of the early souring of milk, dirty bottles, etc., and there is no doubt that in many cases dairymen are experiencing great difficulty in maintaining the standard of cleanliness essential in the handling of milk.

**Tubercle Bacilli in Milk.** All the samples of milk sent for bacteriological examination are examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli. A positive result was received in two or 3.7% of the samples during the year, the same as in the year 1941. Both cases were referred to the County Council and the herds were examined by the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer. An affected cow was traced in each case and they were slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

**The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.** One Pasteuriser's Licence and two dealers' licences—one to sell "Tuberculin Tested" and the other to sell "Pasteurised" milk were granted for the year 1942.

**Meat Inspection.** The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected during the year :—

| No. of<br>Animals | No. killed | No. inspected | Percentage<br>Inspected |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Cattle ...        | 3,708      | 3,708         | 100%                    |
| Sheep ...         | 17,281     | 17,281        | 100%                    |
| Pigs ...          | 646        | 646           | 100%                    |
| Calves ...        | 1,234      | 1,234         | 100%                    |
| Total ...         | 22,869     | 22,869        | 100%                    |

The following table shows the meat condemned as unfit for food during the year :—

|                                 |     |     |      |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Carcase and organs of beast     | ... | ... | 61   |
| „ „ „ „ sheep                   | ... | ... | 27   |
| „ „ „ „ pig                     | ... | ... | 6    |
| Part carcase or organs of beast | ... | ... | 1131 |
| „ „ „ „ sheep                   | ... | ... | 340  |
| „ „ „ „ pig                     | ... | ... | 40   |

**Other Foods.** The following is a list of the various food-stuffs submitted for inspection during the year and condemned as unfit for food :—

2,362 tins milk; 1,280 tins pork luncheon meat; 75 tins corned beef; 46 tins sausage meat; 48 tins paste; 80 tins vegetables; 6 doz. chocolate bars; 15½ lbs. chocolate; 1 quart coffee; 3 boxes livers; 72 lb. pork loin; 11 lb. 9 oz. jellied pork; 18 lb. mutton; 150 lb. boneless meat; 39 lb. pork cuttings; 10,250 lb. Argentine beef; 11 lb. cooked ham; 28 lb. bones; 80½ lb. sausages; 91 lb. bacon; 44 rabbits; 2 ton 19 cwt. cabbage; 18 lb. seed potatoes; 35 crates brussell sprouts; 7 lb. split peas; 10 stone beans; 5 st. rice; 180 lb. lentils; 2 st. tapioca; 80 pts. custard; 19 eggs; 10 doz. sponge puddings; 24 sives pears; 7 tins turnips; 7 packets puff pastry; 332 tins beans; 166 tins tomatoes; 61 tins salmon; 79 tins carrots; 1 bottle sauce; 20½ lbs. cheese; 136 jars jam; 3 tins fish roll; 102 tins fish; 105 tins soup; 54 tins biscuits; 7 tins galantine; 50 cases of orange pulp; 32 tins syrup; 325 tins peas; 10 jars pickles; 252 tins fruit; 104 lb. prunes; 90 pies; 7 st. fish.

**Action taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.** 85 samples were taken during the year under the provisions of the above Act and forwarded to the Public Analyst for analysis. These samples were :—

|                   |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| New Milk          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Custard Powder    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Pure Coffee       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Egg Substitute    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Sugar             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Butter            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Lard              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Beef Sausage Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Ginger            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Pepper            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Pancake Mixture   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Jam               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
|                   |     |     |     |     | —  |
| Total ...         |     |     |     |     | 85 |
|                   |     |     |     |     | —  |

Seven of the samples of milk were certified to be below standard. Three of these samples were all from the same source. The first sample taken from a producer retailer was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 23.40%. Two further samples were therefore taken at the farm on the following day, and these were also found to be deficient in fat content. The matter was referred to the Agricultural Department of the Durham County Council as it was assumed that the feeding of the cows was at fault.

Two other samples were certified to be deficient in fat, one to the extent of 30% and the other 15%. Both these samples were taken from retailers and the samples taken from the persons supplying the milk were certified to be of genuine quality. Proceedings were, therefore, taken against the vendor in each case and convictions were made.

The remaining two samples, although below standard, were certified to have the freezing point of genuine milk.

The sample of butter was certified to be 100% margarine. This was an informal sample submitted by the Ministry of Food and they took action against the vendor.

The sample of sugar was found to contain 4.4% of rice. This had apparently been accidentally mixed with the sugar before delivery to the retailer and no action was taken.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a big reduction in the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, 691 against 2,592 for 1941. This reduction is due to the decrease in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough notified.

Apart from these two diseases the incidence of infectious disease in the Borough was similar to last year.

The following table shows the number of notifications of each disease received, compared with the corresponding figure for the previous year:—

|                         |     |     | 1942 | 1941 |                           |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|------|---------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever           | ... | ... | 80   | 74   |                           |
| Diphtheria              | ... | ... | 164  | 132  |                           |
| Typhoid Fever           | ... | ... | 1    | —    |                           |
| Puerperal Pyrexia       | ... | ... | 13   | 11   |                           |
| Pneumonia               | ... | ... | 97   | 97   |                           |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever    | ... | ... | 21   | 23   |                           |
| Erysipelas              | ... | ... | 20   | 19   |                           |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum   |     |     | 2    | 5    |                           |
| Poliomyelitis           | ... | ... | 1    | —    | 72                        |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | ... | ... | 2    | —    |                           |
| Whooping Cough          | ... | ... | 96   | 367  |                           |
| Measles                 | ... | ... | 193  | 1864 | Big ch<br>and 6<br>measle |
| Dysentry                | ... | ... | 1    | —    |                           |
|                         |     |     | 691  | 2592 |                           |
|                         |     |     | —    | —    |                           |

**Scarlet Fever.** There was a slight increase in the notifications of this disease but the case rate of 1.24 per 1,000 of the population is considerably below the rate for England and Wales and the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns the rates for which were 2.19 and 2.49 respectively. For the fifth year in succession no death occurred from this disease.

**Diphtheria.** 164 cases were notified as compared with 132 for the year 1941 and with 116 and 31 the averages for the 5 year periods 1936-40 and 1931-35. It should be understood that the number of notifications does not truly reflect the incidence of diphtheria, many cases being found on admission to Hospital to be cases of simple tonsillitis. It is to be hoped that the improved facilities for bacteriological examination will result in a reduction of the number of notifications received.

The incidence of this disease fluctuates considerably but the ratio of deaths to cases notified has fallen as shown in the following table :—

| Number of Deaths to Number of Cases Notified. |     |     |                       |
|---|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| 1916—20                                       | ... | ... | 1 death to 9.5 cases  |
| 1921—25                                       | ... | ... | 1 death to 13.0 cases |
| 1926—30                                       | ... | ... | 1 death to 17.8 cases |
| 1931—35                                       | ... | ... | 1 death to 23.5 cases |
| 1936—40                                       | ... | ... | 1 death to 18.7 cases |
| 1941  | ... | ... | 1 death to 33 cases   |
| 1942  | ... | ... | 1 death to 27.3 cases |

The number of deaths from the disease during 1942 was 6. In no case had the patient been immunised.

**Immunisation against Diphtheria.** An intensive campaign was carried out during the year to increase the number of children accepting the facilities offered for immunisation. In addition to a fixed weekly clinic, which was held consecutively at three different centres in the Borough, a mobile clinic toured the town on two afternoons a week during the Summer and excellent results were obtained.

During the year 1942, 1134 pre-school children and 1002 school children were immunised. This brought the total number of immunisations completed since February, 1941, to: pre-school children 2446; school children 8296; total 10,742. The percentages of children immunised at the end of the year were pre-school children 52.05; school children 75.42.

19 cases of diphtheria occurred among children who had been immunised but there were no deaths from the disease in this group. Six children who had not been immunised died during the year.

**Scabies.** During the year 1942, 420 cases of scabies were brought to the notice of the Department by one means or another. The majority were school children and the cases were ascertained at routine and special clinics by the staff of the School Medical Service. In a number of cases treatment was carried out at the School Clinics but all cases were visited by an Inspector on the staff of the Health Department and advice was given as to treatment in the home. Considerable success attended our efforts in this direction and children were, in most cases, returned to school after a very short absence. Early in the year a ward at the Isolation

Hospital was set apart for the in-patient treatment of cases of scabies and 54 persons were treated there. In some cases whole families were removed. The incidence of the disease fell considerably after the first half of the year. Arrangements have now been made for the First Aid posts to be used for the treatment of the disease and it is felt that should epidemic conditions occur facilities will be available to cope with them successfully.

Cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhoea, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Pyrexia, Pneumonia and Erysipelas were visited by nurses from the District Nursing Association under agreement with the Corporation and, if necessary, nursing assistance was provided.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases receiving treatment in the Hospital increased from 371 in 1941 to 542 in 1942. The average daily number of patients was 42 and the average duration of stay of all cases approximately 28 days.

The following table shows the number of cases of the different diseases and the areas from which they were admitted :—

| DISEASE               |     | Stockton Borough | Billingham U.D.C. | Stockton R.D.C. | Other Districts | Services | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Diphtheria            | ... | 161              | 78                | 13              | —               | 14       | 266   |
| Scarlet Fever         | ... | 76               | 46                | 4               | —               | 6        | 132   |
| Measles               | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | 4        | 5     |
| Rubella               | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | 3        | 4     |
| Whooping Cough        | ... | 8                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 8     |
| Enteritis             | ... | 2                | 1                 | —               | —               | 1        | 3     |
| Puerperal Pyrexia     | ... | 5                | 1                 | —               | —               | —        | 6     |
| Scabies               | ... | 54               | 5                 | —               | —               | —        | 59    |
| Meningitis            | ... | 20               | 3                 | —               | —               | 3        | 26    |
| Chicken Pox           | ... | 1                | 1                 | —               | —               | 1        | 3     |
| Typhoid Fever         | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | 1        | 2     |
| Erysipelas            | ... | 3                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 3     |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum |     | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Impetigo              | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Pemphigus             | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Influenza             | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Pneumonia             | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Otitis Media          | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| Threadworms Rash      | ... | 1                | —                 | —               | —               | 3        | 1     |
| Dysentery             | ... | —                | 9                 | —               | —               | 5        | 12    |
| Mumps                 | ... | —                | —                 | —               | —               | 1        | 5     |
| Tonsillitis           | ... | —                | —                 | —               | —               | —        | 1     |
| <b>Totals</b>         | ... | 340              | 143               | 17              | —               | 42       | 542   |
|                       |     | 373              | 101               | 2               | —               | 42       | 518   |

The following deaths occurred in the Hospital:—

|                       |     |     |    |                         |   |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----|-------------------------|---|
| Diphtheria            | ... | ... | 10 | Pneumococcal Meningitis | 1 |
| Enteritis             | ... | ... | 1  | Whooping Cough          | 2 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever  |     | 5   |    | Broncho-Pneumonia       | 3 |
| Tubercular Meningitis |     | 3   |    |                         |   |

**Bacteriological Laboratory.** A bacteriological laboratory was set up at the Isolation Hospital during the year for the examination of diphtheria swabs. For some months swabs from patients admitted to hospital were examined and later these facilities were extended to the medical practitioners in the Borough. A considerable saving of time has thus been effected.

Swabs were dealt with at the hospital from May 22nd to the end of the year as follows:—

|                         |     |          |    |          |     |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|----|----------|-----|
| Diphtheria Throat Swabs | 477 | Positive | 69 | Negative | 408 |
| Diphtheria Nasal Swabs  | 475 | „        | 19 | „        | 456 |

Total 952

The following bacteriological work was carried out on specimens taken from patients in the Isolation Hospital by the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne :—

|                           |     |          |    |          |     |
|---------------------------|-----|----------|----|----------|-----|
| Diphtheria Throat Swabs   | 196 | Positive | 89 | Negative | 107 |
| Diphtheria Nasal Swabs    | 7   | „        | 1  | „        | 6   |
| Cerebro Spinal Fluid      | ... | 23       |    |          |     |
| Dysentery (faeces)        | ... | 23       |    |          |     |
| Gastro Enteritis (faeces) |     | 2        |    |          |     |
| Enteric (faeces)          | ... | 5        |    |          |     |
| Enteric (blood)           | ... | 1        |    |          |     |

A scheme is in operation whereby facilities are provided by the Durham County Council for medical practitioners to obtain, free of cost, reports on swabs from suspected diphtheria cases and sputum from suspected tuberculosis cases from the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle. During the year 1942 the following reports were received:—

|              |     |     |     |          |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| Diphtheria   | ... | ... | 51  | Positive | ... | 10  |
|              |     |     |     | Negative | ... | 41  |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 183 | Positive | ... | 24  |
|              |     |     |     | Negative | ... | 159 |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1941, the additions and removals during 1942 and the number remaining at the end of 1942 :—

|  |     | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Tl.  |
|--|-----|-----------|---------------|------|
| No. of cases on Register                                 |     |           |               |      |
| December 31st, 1941                                      | ... | 611       | 571           | 1182 |
| Added to Register during 1942                            | ... | 71        | 21            | 92   |
| Removed from Register during 1942                        |     | 49        | 22            | 71   |
| Died   | ... | 35        | 3             | 38   |
| Removed  | ... | 5         | 6             | 11   |
| Not tuberculosis   | ... | 9         | 13            | 22   |
| Number of cases remaining on the Register at end of 1942 | ... | 633       | 570           | 1203 |

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year 1942, namely 92, showed a reduction of 37 on the figure for the year 1941. The pulmonary cases decreased by 25 and the non-pulmonary by 12. The incidence rate per 1,000 of the population for pulmonary tuberculosis fell to a figure which compares favourably with the average rates for the five year periods 1936-40 and 1931-35. The non-pulmonary rate was, with one exception, the lowest rate recorded since 1926. *Reduced*

The death rates from the disease were correspondingly low. The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 61 to 36 and the non-pulmonary deaths rose from 7 to 8. The difference between this figure and the number of non-pulmonary deaths removed from the register is partly accounted for by the fact that of the eight non-pulmonary deaths registered during the year, four were not notified as tuberculosis.

This reduction in the incidence and deaths from tuberculosis is difficult to understand as the conditions prevailing during 1939, 1940 and 1941, when the rates showed a sharp rise, still remain, and one would assume that the cumulative effect of these influences on the population would continue to affect the incidence of tuberculosis at an increasing rate.

## CANCER.

The number of deaths from this disease was 93, an increase of 9 on last year's figure. The death rate from the disease was 1.44 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 1.33 and 1.39, the rates for the last two quinquennial periods.

In the following table the deaths are classified according to sex, age and site affected :—

| SITE                                    | MALES |    |    |    |    |    | FEMALES |    |    |    |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |      |  |
|---|-------|----|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|------|--|
|   | 25    |    | 35 |    | 45 |    | 55      |    | 65 |    | Total | 25 |    | 35 |    | 45 |    | 55 |    | 65 |    | Total |      |  |
|   | 35    | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35      | 45 | 35 | 45 | Over  | 35 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 35    | Over |  |
| Buccal Cavity and Pharynx ... ...       | —     | —  | —  | —  | 3  | 2  | 5       | —  | —  | —  | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Digestive Organs and Peritoneum ... ... | —     | 2  | 2  | 6  | 19 | 29 | —       | 1  | 2  | 7  | 12    | 22 | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Respiratory Organs ...                  | —     | —  | 1  | 3  | 3  | 7  | —       | —  | 1  | —  | —     | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | 1    |  |
| Uterus ... ...                          | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —       | —  | 1  | 3  | 3     | 4  | 11 | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Other female Genital Organs ...         | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —       | —  | 1  | —  | 3     | 1  | 5  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Breast ... ...                          | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —       | —  | —  | —  | —     | 1  | 1  | 4  | 6  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Male genito-urinary organs ...          | —     | —  | —  | 2  | 1  | 3  | —       | —  | —  | —  | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Other Sites ...                         | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | 3  | 3       | —  | —  | —  | —     | —  | 1  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |
| Totals ...                              | —     | 2  | 3  | 14 | 28 | 47 | —       | 3  | 7  | 14 | 22    | 46 | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —     | —    |  |

## Maternity and Child Welfare.

The number of births notified in the Borough during the year was 1267—1232 live births and 35 stillbirths.

The number of attendances at the Child Welfare Centres was 21,675, a decrease of 1,182 on last year's figure.

Seven Child Welfare sessions were held each week at the six Child Welfare Centres, one session each week at five Centres and two sessions weekly at one Centre. The average attendances at each of the Centres compared with the corresponding figures for 1941 were as follows:—

|                             |     | 1942 | 1941 |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|------|
| No. 1 ...                   | ... | 65.5 | 66.3 |
| No. 2 ...                   | ... | 60.6 | 65.8 |
| No. 3 ...                   | ... | 52.0 | 62.0 |
| No. 4 ...                   | ... | 81.0 | 79.2 |
| No. 5 ...                   | ... | 73.1 | 78.9 |
| No. 6 ...                   | ... | 42.0 | 48.8 |
| Average for all Centres ... |     | 62.1 | 66.8 |

During the year 970 infants under one year of age and 104 children between one and five years attended the Centres for the first time. The primary attendances of infants under one year of age represent 79% of the live births notified.

**Toddlers' Clinics.** These clinics were provided during the year and have been well used by the public. There is room for an extension of this work in the future. Dental, Ear, Nose and Throat and Ophthalmic defects are now treated by the Council's specialists by arrangement with the Education Committee.

These specialist facilities are also now available for nursing and expectant mothers and for all children under 5 years.

### *Ante-natal*

There are two Ante-Natal Centres in the Borough, at one of which one session is held each week, while at the other one session is held every two weeks.

During the year 1942, 338 expectant mothers made 1,371 attendances at the Ante-Natal Centres, an increase of 16 and 193 respectively on last year's figures. The number of women attending the Centres represents 26% of the total births notified.

To this figure, however, should be added the 371 women who were admitted to the Robson Maternity Home and who received ante-natal treatment at the Home.

The average attendances per session at the two Ante-Natal Centres during the year were as follows:—

|                             |     | <b>1942</b> | <b>1941</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| No. 1                       | ... | 21.0        | 20.2        |
| No. 2                       | ... | 13.6        | 7.5         |
| Average for the two Centres |     | 18.5        | 15.9        |

The Health Visitors paid 11,256 home visits to infants and expectant mothers, a reduction of 710 on last year's figure. These visits were made as follows:—

|                                   |     |     |              |     |      |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------|
| To infants under 1 year           | ... | ... | First visits | ... | 1138 |
|                                   |     |     | Total visits | ... | 3774 |
| To children between 1 and 5 years | ... | ... | Total visits | ... | 7229 |
| To expectant mothers              | ... | ... | First visits | ... | 127  |
|                                   |     |     | Total visits | ... | 253  |

Dried milk supplied at the Centres totalled 8,576 lbs. In addition cod liver oil and other vitamin preparations were supplied either at cost price or free of charge.

## **SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.**

At the end of the year there were sixteen midwives practising in the Borough. This figure is made up as follows:

|  |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Municipal domiciliary midwives           | ... | ... | 8   |
| Domiciliary midwives in private practice | ... | ... | (3) |
| Midwives in Institutions :—              |     |     |     |
| Robson Maternity Home                    | ... | ... | 4   |
| Private Nursing Home                     | ... | ... | 1   |

During the year 1942, 777 domiciliary cases were attended by midwives—636 as midwives and 141 as maternity nurses. In addition 457 cases were attended by midwives in Institutions (371 in the Robson Maternity Home), 327 as midwives and 130 as maternity nurses. Medical aid was summoned by a midwife in emergency for 276 cases, 204 of which were domiciliary cases and 72 cases in Institutions.

**Municipal Midwives.** The eight midwives employed by the Corporation attended 589 confinements and 60 abortions during the year, an average of 81 cases per midwife. In 487 of these cases the midwives acted as midwives and in 102 cases as maternity nurses. Of the cases attended 520 were normal deliveries and 69 instrumental deliveries.

### ROBSON MATERNITY HOME.

The 15 beds provided at the Robson Maternity Home were fully occupied during the year.

371 maternity cases were admitted to the Home, the percentage of beds occupied being 88 and the average duration of stay of cases 12.8 days.

Medical assistance was sought by the midwives of the Maternity Home staff for 72 cases.

One maternal death occurred in the Home during the year, and there were 7 stillbirths and 6 deaths of infants within 10 days of birth.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred in the Home, all of which were cured.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

80 children died in the Borough before reaching the age of 1 year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 65 per 1,000 live births compared with 75, the rate for the year 1941.

24 of the deaths occurred at ages under 1 week and 7 at ages between 1 week and 1 month. The neo-natal death-rate for the year was 25.32 per 1,000 live births; compared with 38 and 47, the rates for the two preceding years.

A table showing the causes of death is given in the appendix to this report.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two deaths occurred during the year from puerperal causes giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.58 per 1,000 total births. The rate for England and Wales was 2.01.

## WAR TIME NURSERIES.

Two additional War Time Nurseries each with accommodation for 60 children were opened on December 8th, 1942, bringing the number of nurseries to 3 and the number of places provided to 155.

One of the new nurseries was specially designed and built for the purpose, while the other was a large house with ample grounds which was adapted to day nursery requirements.

Although the initial cost is greater, the specially designed War Time Nursery has many advantages over an adapted building and is usually much more economical to administer. It also has the decided advantage that it can be erected on any land that may be available in the district where it is most needed and in these districts suitable houses for adaptation are usually very difficult to obtain.

## TOWN AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Town Ambulance Service, consisting of three ambulances, was taken over by the Health Department from the National Fire Service on May 4th, 1942. The ambulances are housed at the Civil Defence First Aid Party Depot at Norton and are manned by the Casualty Services personnel.

The following table shows the calls received during the eight months that the service has been administered by the Department :—

|   |     |      |     |     |            |
|---|-----|------|-----|-----|------------|
| Number of calls                                     | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 1,285      |
| Number of patients                                  | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 1,278      |
| Number of private removals                          | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 956        |
| Number of street accidents                          | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 156        |
| Number of works accidents                           | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 126        |
| Number of home accidents                            | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 19         |
| Ambulance not required                              | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 18         |
| Stockton Racecourse                                 | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 9          |
| Fees collected by Ambulance personnel               | ... | £285 | 13s | 6d  |            |
| Fees collected by Borough Treasurer's<br>Department | ... | ...  | ... | ... | £159 8s 6d |

The Depot Superintendent and the men from the three Depots have worked well together and on many occasions have stayed on after their 12 hour shift in order that the vehicles should be adequately manned. The re-organisation of the Civil Defence Services which resulted in a cut in the personnel greatly affected the available staff, but an extra effort was made by all concerned and the high standard which had already been set was maintained.

## APPENDIX.

### Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1942.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

|  | England and Wales | 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns inc. London | 148 Smaller Towns Pop. 25000-50000 1931 Census | London Adm. County | Stockton on Tees |
|--|-------------------|---|--|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—</b>           |                   |   |  |                    |                  |
| Live Births  | ...               | ...   | ...  | 15.8               | 19.00            |
| Stillbirths  | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.54               | 0.59             |
| <b>Deaths:—</b>  |                   |   |  |                    |                  |
| All causes   | ...               | ...   | ...  | 11.6               | 12.1             |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid                                | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.00               | 0.00             |
| Scarlet Fever  | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.00               | 0.00             |
| Whooping Cough   | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.02               | 0.03             |
| Diphtheria   | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.05               | 0.04             |
| Influenza  | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.09               | 0.09             |
| Smallpox   | ...               | ...   | ...  | —                  | 0.20             |
| Measles  | ...               | ...   | ...  | 0.01               | —                |
|  |                   |   |  | 0.02               | 0.01             |
| <b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—</b>                   |                   |   |  |                    |                  |
| Deaths under 1 year of age                             | ...               | ...   | ...  | 49                 | 65               |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years      | ...               | ...   | ...  | 5.2                | 9.80             |
|  |                   |   |  | 7.5                |                  |
| <b>Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—</b> |                   |   |  |                    |                  |
| Maternal Mortality—                                    | ...               | ...   | ...  | 46                 | 60               |
| Puerperal Infection                                    | ...               | ...   | ...  | 4.8                |                  |
| Others   | ...               | ...   | ...  |                    |                  |
| Total  | ...               | ...   | ...  |                    |                  |
|  |                   |   |  |                    | Not available    |
|  |                   |   |  |                    | 1.58             |
|  |                   |   |  |                    | 1.58             |

14.11.1942

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES, 1942.**

| CAUSE OF DEATH   | Total | Males | Females |
|--|-------|-------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES   | 763   | 432   | 331     |
| 1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers                              | —     | —     | —       |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal fever  | 5     | 3     | 2       |
| 3. Scarlet Fever   | —     | —     | —       |
| 4. Whooping Cough  | 2     | 1     | 1       |
| 5. Diphtheria  | 6     | 4     | 2       |
| 6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system                          | 36    | 21    | 15      |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis                                 | 8     | 2     | 6       |
| 8. Syphilitic diseases   | 3     | 2     | 1       |
| 9. Influenza   | 13    | 6     | 7       |
| 10. Measles  | 1     | —     | 1       |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis                  | —     | —     | —       |
| 12. Acute infective encephalitis                               | 1     | 1     | 0       |
| 13. Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (Males)               | 10    | 10    | —       |
| do. Uterus (Females)   | 11    | —     | 1       |
| 14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum                             | 25    | 12    | 13      |
| 15. Cancer of the breast                                       | 6     | —     | 6       |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites                                  | 41    | 25    | 16      |
| 17. Diabetes   | 9     | 4     | 5       |
| 18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions                             | 65    | 39    | 26      |
| 19. Heart disease  | 170   | 84    | 86      |
| 20. Other diseases of circulatory system                       | 16    | 13    | 3       |
| 21. Bronchitis   | 55    | 32    | 23      |
| 22. Pneumonia  | 45    | 28    | 17      |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases                                 | 8     | 6     | 2       |
| 24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum                               | 6     | 6     | —       |
| 25. Diarrhoea under 2 years                                    | 12    | 7     | 5       |
| 26. Appendicitis   | 4     | 1     | 3       |
| 27. Other digestive diseases                                   | 22    | 13    | 9       |
| 28. Nephritis  | 19    | 7     | 12      |
| 29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis                         | —     | —     | —       |
| 30. Other maternal causes                                      | 2     | —     | 2       |
| 31. Premature Births   | 12    | 7     | 5       |
| 32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries<br>infant diseases | 25    | 17    | 8       |
| 33. Suicide  | 4     | 3     | 1       |
| 34. Road Traffic Accidents                                     | 9     | 8     | 1       |
| 35. Other violent causes                                       | 25    | 20    | 5       |
| 36. All other causes   | 87    | 50    | 37      |

nil

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1942.

| Causes of Death                | Total under<br>1 week | Total under<br>1 Month | Total under<br>12 Months |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Diphtheria                     | ...                   | ...                    | ...                      |
| Measles                        | ...                   | ...                    | ...                      |
| Whooping Cough                 | ...                   | ...                    | 1                        |
| Tuberculous Meningitis         | ...                   | ...                    | ...                      |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis         | ...                   | ...                    | ...                      |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases     | ...                   | ...                    | ...                      |
| Convulsions                    | ...                   | ...                    | 5                        |
| Bronchitis                     | ...                   | 1                      | 1                        |
| Pneumonia (all forms)          | ...                   | ...                    | 13                       |
| Gastro Enteritis               | ...                   | ...                    | 12                       |
| Atelectasis                    | ...                   | 4                      | 5                        |
| Congenital Malformations       | ...                   | 3                      | 7                        |
| Premature Birth                | ...                   | 9                      | 10                       |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus | 1                     | 4                      | 10                       |
| Inanition                      | ...                   | 1                      | 1                        |
| Violence                       | ...                   | ...                    | 1                        |
| Inattention at Birth           | ...                   | 2                      | 2                        |
| Other Causes                   | ...                   | 3                      | 10                       |
|                                | 24                    | 31                     | 80                       |

